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(54) Title: NPC1L1 (NPC3) AND METHODS OF IDENTIFYING LIGANDS THEREOF

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides human, rat and mouse NPC1L1 polypeptides and polynucleotides encoding the polypeptides. Methods for detecting ligands which bind to NPC1L1 and block intestinal cholesterol absorption are provided. Also included is a method of identifying ligands which bind to NPC1L1 using membranes derived from brush border membrane preparations. Compounds that bind to NPC1L1 can be used for inhibiting intestinal cholesterol absorption in a subject.